

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS - with deleted text having strike-through markings and additions that are underlined.

1. (Currently amended) An uplift resistance device for use in roof construction where valleys are created to secure valley trusses ~~in~~ to the inclined upper surfaces of supporting standard roof trusses and wherein a level orientation is achieved for the valley roof trusses relative to supporting standard roof trusses bearing perpendicular thereto without any beveling or other leveling modification to the valley trusses or the standard roof trusses, the roof pitch angle of the inclined upper surface of the standard roof trusses upon which the valley trusses are placed being established during manufacture, that is ~~and further wherein said uplift resistance device is capable of being installed from a position solely above a roof plane and without making holes in sheathing between the standard roof trusses and any valley trusses overlaying them, said device comprising:~~

a one-piece strap having a vertically extending web member with opposing sides and a first vertically extending surface, an opposed second vertically extending surface facing away from said first vertically extending surface, each of said vertically extending surfaces having a lower end, said one-piece strap also having a base member extending from one of said opposing sides of said web member at said lower end of said first vertically extending surface and a wedge extending from the other of said opposing sides of said web member at said lower end of said second vertically extending surface, said wedge having a top surface and a tapered end remote from said web member, said wedge also having a taller end vertically extending between said lower end of said first vertically extending surface and said lower end of said second vertically extending surface, said base member being ~~inclined at an angle angled during manufacture~~

relative to said web member to complement ~~corresponding to the~~ roof pitch angle of the supporting roof trusses ~~to be constructed~~ intended for construction therewith so that when said one-piece strap is in its usable position said top surface of said wedge will be substantially horizontally extending in orientation to provide level support of a valley truss without ~~its~~ any modification; and

a plurality of fastener holes formed through said base member and said web member with at least one of said fastener holes through said web member being a topmost hole, at least one of said fastener holes through said web member being a bottommost hole, and at least one fastener hole positioned between said topmost hole and said bottommost hole being an intermediate hole, with ~~the top ones of said fastener holes~~ said at least one topmost hole and said at least one intermediate hole through said web member being configured and positioned for attachment to a valley truss supported on said top surface of said wedge, and ~~the said at least one bottommost one of said fastener holes~~ hole through said web member and said fastener holes through said base member being configured and positioned for attachment to a supporting standard roof truss bearing perpendicular to the valley truss supported on said top surface of said wedge whereby a valley truss can be placed without beveling or other modification for roof pitch angle upon said wedge of said strap and be subsequently secured to said strap for time saving construction.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said strap is made from molded construction.

3. (Previously amended) The device of claim 1 wherein said strap has a closed wedge cross-sectional configuration with three perimeter sides.

4. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1 further comprising ~~one additional fastener~~ a wedge hole through said base member in a position under said wedge and wherein ~~the one said~~ bottommost one of said fasteners holes hole through said web member is aligned with said ~~additional fastener wedge hole~~ and configured to allow insertion of a fastener completely through said wedge.

5. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1 wherein ~~the one of said fasteners holes~~ through said web member that is closest in proximity to said base member said at least one bottommost hole is laterally centered, and ~~the remaining ones of said fasteners holes through said web member~~ said at least one topmost hole and said at least one intermediate hole are not laterally centered.

6. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1 wherein said base member also extends forwardly beyond said tapered end of said wedge.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said strap is made from folded construction having a hollow wedge.

8. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 7 wherein said wedge has opposing sides between said taller end and said tapered end adapted to provide vertical support for said wedge.

9. (Previously amended) The device of claim 7 wherein said wedge is open-sided.

10. (Original) The device of claim 7 wherein said base member has a two-layer construction.

11. (Original) The device of claim 7 wherein said strap has a rectangular unfolded configuration.

12. (Currently amended) A method for use in roof construction where valleys are created to secure valley trusses with uplift resistance ~~in~~ to the inclined upper surfaces of supporting standard roof trusses from a position solely above a roof plane, and wherein a level orientation is achieved for the valley roof trusses relative to supporting standard roof trusses bearing perpendicular thereto without making holes in plywood sheathing attached ~~to~~ between the standard roof trusses and any valley trusses overlaying them ~~or~~ and also without any beveling or other leveling modification of the valley trusses to accommodate ~~for the roof pitch~~ angle of the inclined upper surfaces of the supporting standard roof trusses established during their manufacture, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of one-piece straps each having a vertically extending web member with ~~opposing sides~~ a first vertically extending surface and an opposed second vertically extending surface facing away from said first vertically extending surface, with each of said vertically extending surfaces having a lower end, said one-piece straps also each having a base member extending from one of said opposing sides of said web member at said lower end of said first vertically extending surface and a wedge extending from the other of said opposing sides of said web member at said lower end of said second vertically extending surface, said wedge having a top surface and a tapered end remote from said web member, said wedge also having a

taller end extending between said lower end of said first vertically extending surface and said lower end of said second vertically extending surface, said base member being ~~inclined as an angle~~ angled during manufacture relative to said web member to complement ~~corresponding the roof pitch angle of the roof supporting roof trusses to be constructed~~ intended for construction therewith so that in its usable position said top surface of said wedge will be substantially horizontally extending in orientation to provide level support of a valley truss without any other leveling modification, and also providing a plurality of fastener holes through said base member and said web member with at least one of said fastener holes through said web member being a topmost hole, at least one of said fastener holes through said web member being a bottommost hole, and at least one fastener hole positioned between said topmost hole and said bottommost hole being an intermediate hole, with ~~the top ones of said fasteners holes through said web member~~ said at least one topmost hole and said at least one intermediate hole being configured and positioned for attachment to a valley truss supported on said top surface of said wedge and ~~the said at least one bottommost hole one of said fastener holes~~ through said web member and said fastener holes through said base member being configured and positioned for attachment to a supporting standard roof truss bearing perpendicular to the valley truss supported on said top surface of said wedge;

providing a plurality of fasteners, a plurality of valley trusses, and a roof construction with a predetermined roof pitch angle that is made from a plurality of standard roof trusses creating an intersection of two perpendicular roof planes;

selecting the ones of said valley trusses collectively having the appropriate configuration to extend one of said roof planes over the other bearing perpendicular thereto;

temporarily securing each of said valley trusses in its usable position over said standard roof trusses;

placing at least one of said straps under each of said valley trusses at positions where said valley trusses intersect with said standard roof trusses below, with said top surfaces of said wedges in contact with said valley trusses; and

using one of said fasteners through each of said fastener holes in said straps to securely attach said placed straps to said standard roof trusses and said valley trusses for uplift resistance.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said straps are made from molded construction.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein said base member also extends forwardly beyond said tapered end of said wedge and further comprising the steps of inserting one of said fasteners through said bottommost portion and through said wedge prior to inserting said same fastener through said base member.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein each said strap comprises a closed wedge cross-sectional configuration with three perimeter sides.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 wherein each said strap is made from folded construction and has an open-sided wedge.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein said base member of each said strap has a two-layer construction.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein each said strap has an unfolded configuration that is rectangular.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein ~~the one of said fasteners holes through said web member that is closest in proximity to said base member~~ said at least one bottommost hole is laterally centered, and ~~the remaining ones of said fasteners holes through said web member~~ said at least one topmost hole and said at least one intermediate hole are not laterally centered.

21. (Previously presented) The device of claim 7 wherein said wedge is open-sided and has a two-layer construction.

22. (Previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein said strap has a rectangular unfolded configuration.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein each said strap has an unfolded configuration that is rectangular.